

# Headquarters, 3rd Infantry Division and Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield



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## *Press Release* *For Immediate Release*

Release No.: PR08-78

Date: July 1, 2008

### **Second Brigade's homecoming continues, Aviation Brigade's torch party comes home**

**FORT STEWART, Ga. (July 1, 2008)** – About 275 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Soldiers came home at two separate ceremonies tonight, one here and one at Hunter Army Airfield.

About 200 Soldiers with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team came home to a pleasant evening breeze and roughly 400 friends and family members at Fort Stewart's Cottrell Field.

A 75-Soldier torch party for the Combat Aviation Brigade was welcomed home at a hanger on Hunter Army Airfield.

At Fort Stewart, 3<sup>rd</sup> ID Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations Lt. Col. Douglas Crissman greeted the Soldiers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT and thanked them for a job well done during the brigade's 13-month deployment to southern Baghdad.

"You allowed true progress to occur," Crissman said. "Be proud of your accomplishments and the history you've made."

The brigade was located in Arab Jabour and detained more than 800 terrorist suspects and helped foster Iraqi self-governance. Second Brigade Soldiers blocked weapons from entering the Iraqi capital, protected the local population, and trained Iraqi security forces. To date, about 630 2BCT Soldiers have come home.

The Combat Aviation Brigade was deployed to southern Baghdad and served with Task Force Marne, providing aviation support to the operations that were conducted in an area the size of West Virginia.

Following Crissman's welcome at Fort Stewart and singing the national anthem, the Marne Song and the Army Song accompanied by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Band, the family members and friends rushed from the bleacher's reviewing stands to greet their Soldiers.